

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07135 251205Z

53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02 LAB-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 SWF-01 OIC-02 /088 W
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R 251110Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9373

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJECT: 30TH SESSION OF GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES - CRITICISM OF U.S.
SECTION 22, IMPORT QUOTAS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

REF: GENEVA 7128

SUMMARY

1. AT THE NOVEMBER 19-21 MEETING OF THE CP'S, AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND CALLED FOR EARLY ABOLITION OF U.S. DAIRY IMPORT QUOTAS
UNDER SECTION 22. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE NOVEMBER 19-21 MEETING OF THE CP'S, NEW ZEALAND
AND AUSTRALIA CALLED FOR A REVIEW OF THE WAIVER ON U.S. SECTION
22, DAIRY IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

3. NEW ZEALAND STATED THAT IT IS TIME TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07135 251205Z

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE WAIVER FOR THESE RESTRICTIONS

WAS GRANTED HAVE CHANGED AND THAT THE ADDITIONAL CIMPORT QUOTAS FOR CERTAIN DAIRY PRODUCTS GRANTED IN 1973-74, ARE STOP-GAP MEASURES WHICH DO NOT FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE U.S. DAIRY IMPORT SYSTEM.

4. AUSTRALIA POINTED OUT THAT ONLY HIGH-PRICES CHEESE, NOT PRODUCED IN THE U.S., AND CASEIN ARE PRESENTLY EXEMPTED FROM U.S. IMPORT QUOTAS. THE AUSTRALIANS REFERRED TO THAT PART OF

THE WAIVER DECISION WHICH STATES THAT QUOTE THE U.S. WILL REMOVE THE RESTRICTION AS SOON AS THE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING SUCH RESTRICTIONS NO LONGER EXIST. UNQUOTE. THIS, THE AUSTRALIANS CLAIMED, IS THE CASE AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT U.S. CHEESE CONSUMPTION HAS DOUBLED SINCE THE WAIVER WAS GRANTED, WHILE IMPORT QUOTAS HAVE REMAINED MORE OR LESS UNCHANGED. THUS, THE AUSTRALIANS INSISTED, THE U.S. DAIRY IMPORT SYSTEM NO LONGER REFLECTS ACTUAL MARKET CONDITIONS AND A REVIEW OF THE WAIVER IS THEREFORE CALLED FOR.

5. THE AUSTRALIANS ALSO REFERRED TO THE AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 1973 WHICH, ACCORDING TO THEM, HAS MODIFIED THE RULES FOR SETTING U.S. DAIRY SUPPORT PRICES IN SUCH A WAY THAT SUPPORT PRICES COULD ACTUALLY BE SET AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN WAS THE CASE UNDER THE PREVIOUS DAIRY LEGISLATION. THEY SUGGESTED THAT THESE RULES BE CHANGED AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE LATTER STATEMENT WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF U.S. LAWMAKERS.

6. IN A BRIEF REPLY, THE U.S. DELEGATE POINTED OUT THAT THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE FORTHCOMING MTN NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONSIDER TO PUT THE DAIRY IMPORT SYSTEM ON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IN THE COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. COMMENT.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DELEGATES INFORMED US AFTER THE MEETING THAT THEIR STATEMENT WAS MERELY FOR THE RECORD AND THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO PURSUE THIS MATTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE.ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DAIRY PRODUCTS, MEETING REPORTS, IMPORT QUOTAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA07135
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740341-0536
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741116/aaaaamti.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 7128
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 30TH SESSION OF GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES - CRITICISM OF U.S. SECTION 22, IMPORT QUOTAS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS
TAGS: ETRD, US, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005